



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

101 Jessup Hall
Iowa City, Iowa 52242-1316
319-335-3549
Fax 319-335-0807

September 14, 2006

Senator Tom Coburn, MD
Chairman
Subcommittee on
Federal Financial Management, Government
Information and International Security
439 Hart
Washington, D.C. 20510
Fax: 202-228-3796

Dear Senator Coburn:

Thank you for your letter of July 27, 2006 in which you request feedback regarding appropriations and earmarks related to federally sponsored projects. We appreciate your comments regarding the critical role universities such as ours play in the development of knowledge that can change people's lives in powerful ways. We believe the federal investment in university-based research has been among the soundest investments that the nation has made.

We were not sure of the scope of your request from your letter so have focused on earmarked appropriations. As I'm sure you are aware, no Congressional appropriation has been made directly to the University. Earmarked appropriations flow through specific federal agencies which in turn develop project requirements and evaluation methods to assure that these funds answer to the mission of the agency and are properly evaluated and accounted for.

1. Below you will find a list of earmarked projects by year, federal agency, amounts and purpose that we were able to assemble in the time available.

2000	Defense	\$3,000,000	Shared funding for engineering research to improve the design of tanks, trucks and other vehicles.
------	---------	-------------	--

2000	US DOT	\$10,000,000	Awarded to a corporation to build equipment for the National Advanced Driving Simulator.
------	--------	--------------	--

2000	Agriculture	\$1,564,000	Shared funding for the Iowa Biotechnology Byproducts Consortium to conduct research on recycling wastes from agricultural processing and reducing their impact on municipal waste-treatment systems.
2001	Defense	\$2,000,000	Shared funding for engineering research to improve the design of tanks, trucks, and other vehicles.
2001	Agriculture	\$1,564,000	Shared funding for the Iowa Biotechnology Byproducts Consortium to conduct research on recycling wastes from agricultural processing and reducing their impact on municipal waste-treatment systems.
2001	US DOT	\$50,000	To conduct research to increase visibility of roadway markings exposed to rain.
2001	Labor	\$900,000	To conduct research on abusive and exploitative child labor.
2002	Agriculture	\$1,530,000	Shared funding for the Iowa Biotechnology Byproducts Consortium to conduct research on recycling wastes from agricultural processing and reducing their impact on municipal waste-treatment systems.
2002	Education	\$500,000	To create a program to support the development of reading skills.
2002	Labor	\$250,000	To create a program to integrate immigrants and refugees into the workplace.
2002	Labor	\$300,000	To conduct research on child labor issues.
2002	HHS	\$800,000	To train nurse anesthetists.
2002	HHS	\$1,000,000	To begin architectural plans for a new public health laboratory.
2002	Defense	\$1,000,000	To study the health of current and former munitions workers at the Iowa Ammunition Plant who may have been exposed to radioactive and other hazardous materials.

2002	Energy	\$1,000,000	To study the health of current and former munitions workers at the Iowa Ammunition Plant who may have been exposed to radioactive and other hazardous materials.
2002	Energy	\$619,423	To study the health of current and former munitions workers at the Iowa Ammunition Plant who may have been exposed to radioactive and other hazardous materials.
2002	Defense	\$55,000	To study the health of current and former munitions workers at the Iowa Ammunition Plant who may have been exposed to radioactive and other hazardous materials.
2002	Defense	\$850,000	To study the health of current and former munitions workers at the Iowa Ammunition Plant who may have been exposed to radioactive and other hazardous materials.
2002	Education	\$100,000	Shared funding to develop a K-8 educational Program to develop thinking skills related to the process of invention.
2003	Defense	\$1,500,000	Shared funding to develop "virtual environment" simulators.
2003	Agriculture	\$714,000	To conduct research with the Iowa Biotechnology Byproducts Consortium on recycling wastes created by agricultural processing and reducing their impact on municipal waste treatment systems.
2003	Education	\$198,700	To create a program to enhance mathematics and science opportunities for rural students.
2003	Education	\$99,350	Shared funding for curricular development at the Des Moines Higher Education Collaborative Higher Education Learning Center.
2003	Defense	\$1,000,000	To study the health of current and former munitions workers at the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant who may have been exposed to radioactive and other hazardous materials.

2004	DOT	\$100,000	To conduct research related to low vision drivers.*
2004	Agriculture	\$1,500,000	Shared funding to conduct research with the Iowa Biotechnology Byproducts Consortium on recycling wastes created by agricultural processing and reducing their impact on municipal waste treatment systems.
2005	Defense	\$914,988	To study the health of current and former munitions workers at the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant who may have been exposed to radioactive and other hazardous materials.
2005	DOT	\$3,000,000	To conduct advanced highway safety research.
2005	Defense	\$1,173,000	To conduct research related to the creation of digital humans and virtual reality in support of the Future Combat Systems program.
2005	Defense	\$920,001	To conduct research related to the creation of digital humans and virtual reality in support of the Future Combat Systems program.
2006	Agriculture	\$1,500,000	To conduct research with the Iowa Biotechnology Byproducts Consortium on recycling wastes created by agricultural processing and reducing their impact on municipal waste treatment systems.
2006	DOD	\$1,500,000	Shared funding to conduct research on steel castings engineering and manufacture.*
2006	Energy	\$350,000	To study the health of current and former munitions workers at the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant who may have been exposed to radioactive and other hazardous materials.
2006	Defense	\$920,000	To conduct research related to the creation of digital humans and virtual reality in support of the Future Combat Systems program.

2006	DOT	\$3,000,000	To conduct advanced highway traffic safety research.
2006	Interior	\$350,000	To provide for historic preservation and education related to the first capitol of the State of Iowa*
2006	Agriculture	\$1,500,000	To conduct research with the Iowa Biotechnology Byproducts Consortium on recycling wastes created by agricultural processing and reducing their impact on municipal waste treatment systems. – Shared funding.

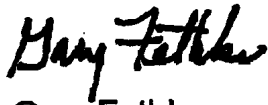
*indicates – UI has not received funding. [Note: year indicates UI best estimate of when allocated not actually expended.]

2. It would not have been possible to create a detailed list of all outcomes such as peer reviewed publications that you asked about in time to meet your deadline. To provide fully accurate information would have required collecting detailed information and analysis from individual faculty, departments and colleges on our own campus and others, together with other information. That undertaking would have involved a massive amount of work hours by dozens of people over an extended period of time. We know this could not have been your intent. In item 3 below, however, does describe how we evaluate federally sponsored programs.
3. The University sets measures and standards to achieve quality and outcomes in the same way it does for any other federally sponsored grant or contract. Individuals submit proposals through their departments, colleges and other offices for review and approval based upon the excellence of the proposal, its potential to advance the discipline, training or service being provided; and its centrality to the mission of the federal agency. Once funds are awarded projects are measured first against the requirements of the specific grant or contract. Individual faculty members submit lists of publications, presentations, monographs and other materials for review by their departments each year. Subsequently they are included for peer review during promotion and tenure procedures. They are likewise reviewed centrally during accreditation reviews. Scholarly activity, unlike reports to agencies as a part of a grant or contract, are not broken out according to specific funding source.
4. The University of Iowa does not have a blanket policy regarding earmarks, though we do have procedures in place for their review and approval as stated above. The University was one of several issuing a joint statement that no Congressionally directed funding would be pursued in accounts

that are included in the President's American Competitiveness Initiative (ACI).

5. The University of Iowa has considered the use of a Washington, DC consultant.
6. The University of Iowa has found that these funds have enabled faculty and staff to advance their teaching, research and service missions while at the same time contributing in substantive ways to the missions of the federal agencies who sponsor these activities.

Sincerely,



Gary Fethke
Interim President
Leonard A. Hadley Professor of Leadership